REMARKS

NO NEW MATTER IN NEW CLAIMS 27-38

The BACKGROUND refers to the prior art method of dispensing a single roll of geosynthetic clay liner (GCL) and shows dispensing a single roll in consecutive layers in the well known overlapping relation, one layer to the next (Fig. 1). The new apparatus claimed in U.S. 6,786,446, resulting from the parent application, provides an improved apparatus for carrying out the consecutive dispensing of GCL layers in overlapping relation, and provides for shifting the GCL roll from left to right for proper positioning of adjacent layers of the GCL. Figs. 2-8 also clearly show the apparatus carrying a single roll of the GCL for dispensing adjacent layers in accordance with the claimed method, as shown in Fig. 1.

New claim 38 mirrors issued claim 1, in method terminology, of the parent application.

THE PRIOR ART REJECTIONS SHOUD BE WITHDRAWN

The Cardinal, Jr. '972 patent describes a series of trucks that are each loaded with two precisely positioned rolls of plastic film (not a GCL) that are each only supported at the roll ends (col. 2, lines 26,27) by roller pairs 9/10 and 10/11 on three adjacent trucks. The '972 apparatus and method depend upon dispensing two rolls of film simultaneously in order to provide a precise overlapping relationship between adjacent film layers. Adjacently positioned trucks are necessary so that each truck supports roll ends of its two rolls to be dispensed as well as opposite ends of two rolls being dispensed by an adjacent truck, as shown in Fig. 1, where trucks are properly spaced for laying down the overlapping film layers.

It is asserted in the outstanding Office Action that it would have been obvious to provide a transversely movable carriage (as shown by Benson et al.) in any of the trucks 6 of Cardinal, Jr. to dispense any number of rolls having a desired overlap. What would happen if the Cardinal, Jr. trucks (any one or all) included a feature to move the film rolls (one or both) left and right? Presumably, both rolls of each thusly modified truck would move simultaneously to maintain proper overlap between the two rolls carried by that truck,

otherwise, lateral movement of only one roll would cause an extreme overlap of the closest layer being dispensed by an adjacent truck in the direction of roll movement and leave a space between adjacent layers in the direction opposite the direction of roll movement. Further, since both rolls are required to be supported at their roll ends by adjacent trucks, the support rollers on adjacent trucks would require the same lateral movement left or right for continued roll support. In other words, with any lateral roll movement, all roll supports on all trucks would require the same lateral movement, in the same direction to continue to support the rolls of plastic. This would make no sense since the trucks would merely start their travel from a different starting point if the rolls should be positioned left or right from the position shown in the Cardinal, Jr. drawings.

At the interview of December 7, 2004, it was proposed that the transverse roll movement modification could be installed on only one truck for dispensing multiple, adjacent, overlapping films. This is not possible since three adjacently positioned trucks are needed to support two rolls of film on a single truck (the truck carrying the two rolls to be dispensed and one truck on each side to hold the opposite roll ends, as shown in Fig. 1 - note that a truck 6 carrying rolls 4 and 5 requires two adjacent trucks to support opposite ends of rolls 4 and 5) thus movement of two rolls on one truck requires like movement of all rolls on adjacent trucks for continued roll support.

In view of the above explanation of the workings of the Cardinal, Jr. roll dispensing apparatus, it is submitted that it would not be obvious to employ the transverse roll moving feature of Benson into all Cardinal, Jr. trucks since the same positioning of plastic rolls can be achieved by starting the adjacent trucks from a starting point left or right of the starting point shown in the Cardinal, Jr. drawings. It would not be obvious to provide lateral movement on only one truck, since three trucks are required to hold two rolls of plastic and all three trucks would require the same lateral movement for continued roll support. Further, new claims 27 - 37 require the dispensing of only a single roll. Cardinal, Jr. requires dispensing two rolls of film (not a GCL) simultaneously to maintain proper overlap. To substitute the features of Benson et al onto a single Cardinal, Jr. truck would eliminate the required two roll overlap essential to the Cardinal, Jr., process.

New claim 38 claims loading the roll of GCL between a pair of adjustable width alignment arms to sandwich the roll of geosynthetic clay liner therebetween. As shown in Fig. 3 of the Cardinal, Jr. '972 patent, for the purpose of temporarily protecting plants and the like, such material must be eventually rolled up, as shown in Fig. 3 of the '972 patent. When collected, the dispensing apparatus for each of the rolls are placed end-to-end (Fig. 3) which is impossible if the apparatus, as claimed by applicants herein, include adjustable width alignment arms disposed at each end of the rolls of material. Accordingly, it is submitted it also would not have been obvious to one skilled in the art to dispense the GCL from a pair of adjustable width alignment arms, added to the apparatus of Cardinal, Jr. since such a modification of the Cardinal, Jr. patent would make it impossible to re-roll or collect the multiple rolls of sheet material dispensed in the Cardinal, Jr. apparatus.

It is submitted that all claims are now of proper form and scope for allowance. Early and favorable consideration is respectfully requested.

Applicant believes no fee is due with this response. However, if a fee is due, please charge our Deposit Account No. 13-2855, under Order No. 28570/39829A from which the undersigned is authorized to draw.

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Respectfully submitted,

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